



HR0554

LRB097 13981 GRL 58595 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of William
4 Eric "Doc" Perkins; and

5 WHEREAS, William Perkins was born on September 3, 1948, in
6 Chicago; his parents were Betty L. Mason and Darrell J.
7 Perkins; he was baptized at St. Finbar Catholic Church on the
8 west side of Chicago and attended St. Dorothy's and Mendel
9 Catholic High School; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1966, William Perkins began attending
11 Northwestern University in Evanston, where he graduated with
12 honors with a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1970; while in
13 college, he pledged with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and was a
14 "founding officer" of the "For Members Only" (FMO)
15 organization, which spearheaded the Northwestern University
16 "Takeover" in 1968; he subsequently earned his master's degree
17 from the University of Rochester and his Ph.D in history from
18 the City University of New York; and

19 WHEREAS, William Perkins educated hundreds of students at a
20 variety of institutions; he served as a faculty fellow at the
21 W.E.B. DuBois House at the University of Pennsylvania; he was
22 an adjunct professor of communications at Hunter College at

1 City University of New York; he was an assistant professor with
2 the African American Studies department at Temple University;
3 he also served with Educational Testing Service for 13 years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, William Perkins was well known throughout the
6 academic community in the United States and beyond; he wrote
7 and lectured on various topics, including slavery, Caribbean
8 history, urban studies, and American popular culture; his
9 classes inspired hundreds of students to become rigorous
10 critical thinkers, ardent political activists, and scholars;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, William Perkins was the author of "Droppin'
13 Science: Critical Essays on Rap Music and Hip Hop Culture",
14 which was published by Temple University Press in 1996; the
15 book is still considered a critical text in the field of hip
16 hop scholarship; and

17 WHEREAS, William Perkins enjoyed watching sports and was
18 particularly thrilled and excited when the New Orleans Saints
19 recently won the Super Bowl; he also enjoyed cooking,
20 photography, and traveling to various countries of the African
21 Diaspora, including Cuba, Brazil, Grenada, Aruba, and Jamaica;
22 he particularly enjoyed learning about and experiencing Creole
23 culture; and

1 WHEREAS, William Perkins is survived by his daughter, Sonya
2 Perkins; his son, Logan Bailey Perkins; his grandsons, Miles,
3 Charlie, and Julian Perkins; his sister, Darlene Perkins
4 Tribue; his brothers, Antonio Burketh (Lydia) and Lance
5 Richards; his nephews, Edward "Kippy" Tribue (Helen) and Shawn
6 Richards (Miriam); his aunt, Joan Mason; his brothers-in-law,
7 Edward and Randall Tribue; and his many nieces, nephews,
8 cousins, friends, and colleagues; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
12 William Eric "Doc" Perkins; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of William Perkins as an expression of
15 our sympathy.